

Application Number: 10/519,216
Reply Dated: December 14, 2009
Office Action Dated: July 13, 2009

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 13, 2009 for which a three (3) month period of response was given. A Petition and fee for a two (2) month extension of time accompany this paper. Since December 13, 2009 was a Sunday, this paper and any accompanying papers are timely filed on Monday, December 14, 2009. However, should an additional extension of time and/or any further additional claim fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to treat this paper as a Petition for any needed extension of time and to charge any fees due to Deposit Account No. 50-0959, Attorney Docket No. 089498.0436.

Claims 1 and 4 through 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 3 were previously cancelled. Claims 4, 10, 18 and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 4, 10, 18 and 19 exists in the specification as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. As such, entry and consideration of the amendments to the claims is believed due and is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to once again thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 1, 6 through 9 and 11 through 17.

I. The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection:

Claims 4, 5, 10, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over Tennent et al. (United States Patent No. 6,099,960). Tennent et al. relates to high surface area carbon nanofibers that have been functionalized with an outer layer of a porous high surface area polymeric material. As is correctly pointed out by the Examiner, Tennent et al. only discloses fibers made from phenolics-formaldehyde, polyacrylonitrile, styrene divinyl benzene, cellulosic polymers (*i.e.*, rayon), and cyclotrimerized diethynyl benzene.

Given the disclosure therein, Tennent et al. fails to disclose each and every element of amended claims 4, 10, 18 and 19. Specifically, Tennent et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest a fibrous protein-immobilization system composition where a protein is contained

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within a fiber-forming material and wherein the fiber-forming material selected from the group consisting of nylons, polyesters, polyurethanes, silanes, or copolymers thereof (emphasis supplied). Since Tennent et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of claims 4, 10, 18 and 19, Tennent et al. cannot anticipate, and/or render obvious, claims 4, 5, 10, 18 and 19.

Thus, for at least the above reason, withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 4, 5, 10, 18 and 19 is believed due and is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion:

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 4, 5, 10, 18 and 19 is believed due and is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 4 through 19 of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 14, 2009